

## **Convention for the Conservation of Anadromous Stocks in the North Pacific Ocean (Basic Instrument for the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission - NPAFC)**

### **Basic Instrument**

Convention for the Conservation of Anadromous Stocks in the North Pacific Ocean, 1992 (hereafter referred to as the "Convention," Senate Treaty Document 102-30, 102d Congress, 2d Session).

### **Implementing Legislation**

The North Pacific Anadromous Stocks Act of 1992 (Title VIII of Public Law 102-567).

### **Member Nations**

Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States.

### **Commission Headquarters**

North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission  
Suite 502, 889 West Pender Street  
Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6C 3B2

Executive Director: Mr. Vladimir Fedorenko  
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### **Budget**

The approved NPAFC budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007/2008 (July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008) is CAD\$867,000, with each Party contributing CAD\$145,000. The budget estimate for FY 2008/2009 is CAD\$855,000 with each Party contributing CAD\$145,000.

### **U.S. Representation**

A. Appointment Process:

The United States is represented on the Commission by not more than three U.S. Commissioners who are appointed by the President and serve at his pleasure. Each U.S. Commissioner is appointed for a term not to exceed 4 years, but is eligible for reappointment. Of the three Commissioners, one must be an official of the U.S. Government, one a resident of the State of Alaska, and the third a resident of the State of Washington. Candidates for the non-Federal Commissioner positions must be knowledgeable or experienced concerning anadromous stocks and ecologically-related species of the North Pacific Ocean.

In addition, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, may designate from time to time Alternate U.S. Commissioners to the NPAFC. The number of Alternate Commissioners that may be designated to a Commission meeting is limited to the number of authorized U.S. Commissioners that will not be present.

B. U.S. Commissioners:

James W. Balsiger  
Administrator, Alaska Region  
National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA  
P.O. Box 21668  
Juneau, AK 99802-1668

Rowland R. Maw, Jr.  
Executive Director  
United Cook Inlet Drift Association  
43961 K-Beach Road, Suite E  
Soldotna, AK 99669

Gary T. Smith  
President, Gary Smith Company  
3219 Point Place SW  
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C. Advisory Structure:

The North Pacific Anadromous Stocks Act of 1992 established an Advisory Panel to the United States Section of the NPAFC. The Advisory Panel shall be composed of: (1) the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game; (2) the Director of the Washington Department of Fisheries and Wildlife; (3) one representative of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission; and (4) 11 members (6 residents of the State of Alaska and 5 residents of the State of Washington) appointed by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, from among a slate of 12 persons nominated by the Governor of Alaska and a slate of 10 persons nominated by the Governor of Washington. There must be at least one representative of commercial salmon fishing interests and one representative of environmental interests on each of the Governors' slates. As is the case with NPAFC Commissioners, Advisors must be knowledgeable of North Pacific anadromous stocks and ecologically related species. Advisors serve for a term not to exceed 4 years, and may not serve more than two consecutive terms. The current Advisory Panel members follow.

Washington Department of Fish And Wildlife

Guy Norman  
Regional Director (Director's Representative)  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Region 5 Office, 2108 Grand Blvd.  
Vancouver, WA 98661

Washington Members\*

Douglas Fricke  
110 Valley Rd  
Hoquiam, WA 98550

Robert Kehoe  
General Counsel  
Purse Seine Vessels Owners Association  
1900 W. Nickerson Street, #320  
Seattle, WA 98119-1650

Steve Parker  
Fisheries Resource Management  
Yakima Indian Nation  
P.O. Box 151  
Toppenish, WA 98948

John Sproul  
Sproul & Associates  
1000 Edson St.  
Lynden, WA 98264-1441

James W. Tuggle  
3092 Hampton Drive S.W.  
Tumwater, WA 98512-6258

Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
David Bedford (Commissioner's Representative)  
Deputy Commissioner  
Alaska Department of Fish & Game  
P.O. Box 25526  
Juneau, AK 25526

Alaska Members\*  
Karen Gillis  
Bering Sea Fishermen's Association  
2510 Sebring Circle  
Anchorage, AK 99516

James Kallander  
P.O. Box 2272  
Cordova, AK 99574

Jay Stinson  
President, Pelagic Resources, Inc.  
P.O. Box 3845  
Kodiak, AK 99615

Robert Thorstenson, Jr.  
United Fishermen of Alaska  
410 Calhoun Ave. #205  
Juneau, AK 99801

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

David Hanson (Executive Director's Representative)  
Deputy Director  
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission  
45 SE 82nd Avenue, Suite 100  
Gladstone, OR 97027-2522

\* All State of Washington and Alaska members of the Advisory Panel were appointed on October 6, 2004. Their appointments will expire on September 15, 2008.

Description

A. Mission/Purpose:

The NPAFC serves as a forum for promoting the conservation of anadromous stocks and ecologically-related species, including marine mammals, sea birds, and non-anadromous fish, in the high seas area of the North Pacific Ocean. This area, as defined in the Convention, is "the waters of the North Pacific Ocean and its adjacent seas, north of 33° North Latitude beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured." In addition, the NPAFC serves as the venue for coordinating the collection, exchange, and

analysis of scientific data regarding the above species within Convention waters. It also coordinates high seas fishery enforcement activities by member countries (the Convention prohibits directed fishing for salmonids and includes provisions to minimize the incidental take of salmonids in other fisheries in the Convention area).

#### B. Organizational Structure:

The NPAFC has three standing committees: the Committee on Enforcement, the Committee on Finance and Administration, and the Committee on Scientific Research and Statistics. The committees are responsible for providing accurate and timely advice to the Commission in the areas relating to the finances of the Secretariat and the scope of the enforcement activities and scientific research conducted under the auspices of the Commission.

#### C. Programs:

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the NPAFC was held in Vladivostok, Russia, on October 8-12, 2007. All of the Parties (Canada, Japan, Korea, Russia, and the United States) were represented. Mr. Doug Mecum, NMFS Acting Alaska Regional Administrator and U.S. Alternate Federal Commissioner, led the U.S. delegation. The plenary meeting was chaired by Mr. Guy Beaupré (Canada), President of the Commission. Representatives from Taiwan and the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) observed the meeting.

At NPAFC Annual Meetings, the majority of the work of the Commission takes place in its three standing committees: the Committee on Enforcement (ENFO), the Committee on Finance and Administration (F&A), and the Committee on Scientific Research and Statistics (CSRS). The recommendations of each Committee on its agenda items are presented in the form of a report to the Commission for its consideration. These reports are then formally adopted by the Commission at its final plenary session. Some of the major accomplishments of each committee are highlighted below.

#### **ENFO Committee**

In the ENFO Committee, the Parties and the observer delegation from Taiwan shared their individual and joint enforcement activities in 2007, and coordinated enforcement activities for 2008. The number of vessels suspected of IUU fishing in the Convention Area dropped from 100 vessels in 2006 to less than 50 vessels in 2007. Six Chinese vessels were seized in the Convention Area in 2007, as well as one Indonesian vessel. Given the high number of Chinese vessels suspected of illegal driftnet fishing in the Convention Area, the NPAFC sent a letter to Chinese authorities in 2007 expressing the Parties' concern and inviting China to join the NPAFC. No response was received. At the Annual Meeting, the Parties agreed to continue staff-level communications with China to encourage cooperation on driftnet enforcement and to obtain information regarding the disposition of the six vessels seized in 2007. The Indonesian vessel seized by Russia had over 90 tons of salmon onboard. The Parties agreed that the Secretariat should send a letter to the Government of Indonesia expressing concern over Indonesian vessels sighted in the Convention Area and reminding it of Convention rules regarding high seas driftnet fishing in the North Pacific Ocean. The Parties also discussed how to facilitate more timely communications between enforcement authorities in Taiwan and the NPAFC Parties, including whether to grant Taiwan access to the NPAFC's Integrated Information System, a web-based system that allows for the exchange of real-time enforcement information. The Parties also discussed how to deal with abandoned or derelict driftnets. Overall, the Parties agreed to continue enforcement activities in 2008 at levels similar to recent years, and to consider the timing and location of enforcement activities, given that it appears illegal driftnetting for salmon continues in the summer months, while illegal driftnetting for squid and tuna may be occurring in the fall.

The Parties agreed to hold the ENFO Committee's annual Enforcement Evaluation and Coordination Meeting (EECM) in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, from 27-29 February 2008. They also agreed to invite representatives of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission's Technical Committee on Compliance and representatives of the Fisheries Working Group of the North Pacific Coast Guard Forum to meet in Vancouver immediately following the 2008 EECM to exchange information on their respective enforcement operations in the North Pacific.

## **CSRS Committee**

The CSRS meeting consisted of reports by each Party on salmon stock assessments, salmon harvests, and scientific research and research plans for the future. The Parties coordinated their scientific research activities and recommended a work plan for the CSRS Committee. In 2008, the CSRS will host the *International Symposium on Bering-Aleutian Salmon International Surveys (BASIS): Climate Change, Production Trends, and Carrying Capacity of Pacific Salmon in the Bering Sea and Adjacent Waters* in conjunction with the NPAFC Annual Meeting to further understanding on how climate change will affect salmon growth and survival in the North Pacific Ocean. The Committee also secured external funding to identify the long-term research and monitoring required to assess the impact of climate change on salmon in the North Pacific.

The total catch of Pacific salmon by all producing countries in 2006 was approximately 863,000 metric tons (t), slightly above the 1990-2006 average catch of 854,000 t. This represents an 11 percent decline from the 2005 catch, mainly due to poor pink salmon harvests in North America. Pink salmon accounted for 58 percent of the catch by number of fish caught, followed by chum, sockeye, coho, chinook, and cherry (masu) salmon. The largest catches were reported by the United States (340,942 t), followed by Russia (276,356 t), and Japan (221,739,200 t).

Russian catches for 2007 were the highest on record, particularly for pink salmon from eastern Sakhalin and sockeye and chinook from Kamchatka. Catches in the United States (Alaska) and Japan were also high. However, the trends for Canada, the U.S. Pacific Northwest, and Korea were not so strong. These regional fluctuations of abundance need further consideration by scientists from NPAFC countries. It is suspected that the fluctuations result from ongoing impacts of climate changes on salmon production. Oceanographic conditions have undergone dramatic changes in the Bering Sea in recent years. These conditions are being monitored by the NPAFC BASIS program. Vessels from Japan, Russia, and the United States are involved in an ecosystem study of salmon and associated marine fishes in the entire Bering Sea.

## **F&A Committee**

The F&A Committee reviewed the Commission's budget and projected that the Commission will be operating in a deficit within a few years due to increased operating expenses. The Committee proposed that the Parties' annual dues be increased by CAD\$35,000 per party to CAD\$180,000 in FY 2010. The Committee noted that without such an increase, the Commission will be unable to meet its projected financial commitments in 2010. A final decision on the dues increase by the Parties will be made at the 2008 Annual Meeting. At the same time, the Parties will support efforts by the CSRS and Enforcement Committees and the Secretariat to secure external funding for NPAFC initiatives. The Parties also agreed to conduct a performance review of the operation of the NPAFC, pursuant to United Nations General Assembly Resolution 61/105. The United States will chair a steering committee to develop a work plan for the performance review. The Parties also adopted guidelines for media participation at future NPAFC meetings.

## **Other Issues**

**Future Meetings:** The 16<sup>th</sup> NPAFC Annual Meeting will be hosted by the United States in Seattle, Washington, on November 17-21, 2008. Japan will host the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in 2009.

**New President:** The Commission elected Mr. Dohyung Koo of Korea as the next President of the NPAFC.

## **Staff Contacts**

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